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TWELVE PAGES.
SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 1900.
THE ADDRESS OF MR. CURRY.
That was a rather notable address of Dr. J. L. M. Curry to the students of the University of Virginia—able, scholarly and timely; but, withal, what will strike many as rather "advanced." For instance, Dr. Curry said:
"How to prevent the tyranny of the majority, plutocratic despotism, improper interference of collective opinion with individual liberty, the triumph of a 'powerful contingent of selfish interests,' how to make a fitting adjustment between individual independence and government control, is a question of exceeding delicacy and difficulty. It may not be unprofitable to correct some popular errors which have been increased in mischief by being incorporated in State papers and party shibboleths, and construed as of universal application, when they were originally intended in critical exigencies and not as universal truths.
"All men are created equal is a generalization not true—historically, politically, individually, ethnologically, in heaven or on earth. Governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, if put in practice, would overturn every government on earth. No such consent was ever asked or had. Only a selected portion was ever privileged to represent society."
If the declaration of the equality of men and the enunciation of the principle that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed be mere demagoguery, then in truth the sooner they are allowed to pass into oblivion the better. If on the other hand they be axioms of such sort that the attempt to live up to them, even though the attempt fail, has resulted in a government under which man enjoys a larger measure of liberty and of equality before the law than obtains elsewhere, then it were better to affirm and to re-affirm these declarations rather than to repudiate them.
We confess to very little sympathy and considerable impatience with the attempts to explain away the Declaration of Independence, and to hold it fallacious, because as a nation we have not lived up to it. The Bible says "love thy neighbor as thyself," but thus far the men who have fulfilled the injunction have managed to shun notoriety. Is it therefore wise to say that the injunction were better eliminated? Can any great principle of morals, of religion or of government be named that has been found practical in universal application or that when subjected to the test of human passion, prejudice and selfishness has not broken down quite as lamentably as the declarations of man's equality, and that government derives its just powers from the consent of the governed? It is the purpose of punitive statutes to punish the guilty and protect the innocent. Shall we wipe them off the books because the innocent man is sometimes hanged while the murderer dies of old age?
If we are to dispense with the equality of man and the consent of the governed as tenets of our political creed, what shall take their place? Shall we have government by a few of the most enlightened, and if so why not by the one most enlightened? He is a dull student of contemporary events, who can not see that if these principles "were originally enunciated in critical exigencies" it is now sought to modify and repudiate them because such modification or repudiation would square more easily with other "critical exigencies" and would spare condemnation, by dispensing with that which condemns.
Brutal as has been the oppression of the weak by the strong in some instances in this country, flagrant as has been the disregard of the popular will at times and by careless officials, the

fact remains that the declaration of man's equality has led to a keener sense of responsibility of man to man than will be found in any other country of the world. Practically this declaration has wrought untold good, even though it be true only in theory. We regard with distrust and aversion, we care not who enunciates it, the declaration that the dictum of class is to be substituted for the consent of the whole people as the basis of government. Men and governments fall short of their principles; it does not follow that they shall do better by the exclusion of principles to square with conduct. For men, that way lies moral degradation; for republics, oligarchy or despotism.

BLACKMAILING FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.

The Washington Post has exposed a most scandalous attempt to blackmail federal employees. According to the Post's account, the Republican Campaign committee established an agent in the Raleigh hotel who asked each of the employees of the Capitol to call and pay over 50 per cent. of the extra month's salary voted them by the last congress, according to custom. This would have given the Campaign committee a nucleus of \$40,000 to start with, but the employees declined to "shell out" and exposed the scheme.

When the agent, a person named Schrader, was asked for the facts, he did not deny that he was acting for the Republican Congressional committee. He contented himself with asserting that no specific sum had been asked for and made this engaging confession:

"These men are not under civil service rules, and more than that, they are not assessed. A good many of them have heretofore complained that there was no recognized committee-room and no one authorized to receive campaign contributions. This year it was decided to give the generously-inclined no such excuse, and they were notified that they might call at the Raleigh, where they were told that anything they might be inclined to give would be thankfully received. Every man has been given a receipt for every cent contributed by him, and no man holding such receipt will say that he was forced to give, or that his place would be jeopardized if he refused to give anything. If there has been any kicking, it must be from those who have kept at a safe distance, and have allowed their fears to exaggerate their danger."

Such an example of disinterested thoughtfulness as Mr. Schrader here lays bare cannot fail to commend itself to every man whose soul has burned to make contributions while he was unable to find a contributor. The spectacle of federal employees rushing hither and thither over the super-heated asphalt of Washington's streets in the vain search for a depository for campaign funds was calculated to harrow more hardened sensibilities than are the property of a Republican Congressional campaign committee.

There was no compulsion, says Schrader. Was not the admission that the men asked to call and deliver are not under civil service rules an unfortunate, if necessary, admission? It compels rather ill with the theory of entire freedom from compulsion. If the men invited to hand over half a month's salary are not under civil service rules they are subject to summary dismissal, and any call upon them for contributions was, in the nature of the case, the full equivalent of a threat. The case, therefore, plainly stands that the Republican Congressional campaign committee has attempted to blackmail the Capitol employees, under circumstances the most outrageous and disgraceful, and on pain of dismissal, implied, if not expressed.

Federal employees of all sorts and degrees may as well take notice and begin to economize. No hard luck stories will go down this year. The proposition is half a month's salary or decapitation. It is too plain to be misunderstood and too urgent to be parried. There should be no favoritism, however. Schrader says he gave receipts—why, is not explained, but is easy to conjecture—and all other federal employees should demand the same evidence that they have bought immunity from persecution and further blackmail.

IN THE MATTER OF SOUTHERN COLLEGES.

The Philadelphia Press uses the recent eclipse to adorn a tale, the purport of which is that as the colleges and universities of the South failed to put scientific corps in the field on that occasion they have poor equipments and are the victims of neglect. Inferentially, of course, the place to be educated is in Northern schools.

The indictment is true, in part. The colleges of the South have not the more costly apparatus that goes to the equipment of the latter day university; also Southern colleges are not receiving the aid in a financial way that they need and deserve. Still, we are working up to that, and meantime Southern colleges are not bad. From them a most excellent education is to be had. The student cannot get in these institutions all that he would get at Harvard or Yale; he can get a great deal that he would not get at Harvard or Yale, and in the long run, for the man who is to make his living in the South, it is pretty well a stand-off.

with several hundred of his fellow students, by men who know all about the subjects they discuss, is an educated man—not though he has measurably assimilated what he has heard.

Education is not knowledge; it is development; and the young man of average talents stands a vastly larger chance of getting proper development in a Southern college of three or four hundred students, where he will be an individual, not a mere atom, than in the large Northern college, where there are 2,000 students, of whom, individually, the instructors know nothing and care less.

This is the deliberate judgment of many of the ablest educators, statesmen, jurists and business men of the country. The larger schools realize the failure of the machine-made education and have attempted, with indifferent success, to inject a larger element of personal instruction. If the Southern schools are so bad in their way, it is a trifle remarkable that the men who go from them to universities like Johns Hopkins and Chicago not only hold their own, but, man for man, outstrip the graduates of the larger Northern colleges.

THE PLATFORM TO BE.

I cannot undertake to say what will be the paramount issue. No man can. One thinks one question is the biggest, and another man thinks another is. Mr. Bryan in his Chicago interview.

No man has been subjected to a hotter fire in the history of American politics than Mr. Bryan. For the past six months every time he has put his head out of doors he has been asked what he thought of the political weather. He has been interviewed by newspaper men from New York to San Francisco; he has been assailed by the cool and adroit veteran and the awkward cub, all anxious to know what he thought about the issues, what the issues this year will be, which will take precedence, &c., &c. There have been skilled plans laid to trap him and deliberate plans to misrepresent him. He has contrived to come through the ordeal without any blundering or loss of prestige.

In his declaration above given Mr. Bryan takes an attitude that is at once frank and modest. Although his nomination is practically assured, he carefully refrains from anything that would smack of dictation to the Kansas City Convention, preferring to leave it to the judgment of that assemblage to frame such a declaration of principles as shall best express the sentiments of the party at large. This is eminently wise and proper. Mr. Bryan's views are sufficiently well known. The delegates to the convention will be supposed to know the views of the people who sent them. It is their business to frame a platform, and they are in possession of all the facts necessary to that undertaking. The matter can now be very properly left to their discretion. That their will be radical differences of opinion is certain. That they will lead to division in the party is improbable. But that the convention should be left perfectly free to work out the platform problem for itself is one of the essentials to harmony and a vigorous campaign. Mr. Bryan leaves it entirely free.

Mr. J. R. Arbuckle, of New York City, will shortly institute a novel enterprise. He has chartered four vessels which will run out to sea thirty or forty miles every night with those who care to go, returning in the morning in time for breakfast. Those who long for sea air will be charged reasonable rates for accommodations on board. The boats are expected to be largely patronized by business men who cannot get away for a vacation at the resorts. Mr. Arbuckle ought to do a land office business and the only wonder is that no one has thought of such an enterprise before.

Says the Hartford Courant: "As we contemplate with disgust the skulking Stephens, it is a pleasure to turn our eyes to Steunenberg of Idaho." Stephens is Governor of Missouri and Steunenberg, of Idaho. Each is a Democrat. The Courant is Republican. Democrats are not turning their eyes with pride or joy towards either. To them a composite of Steunenberg and Stephens would be a more attractive figure. Steunenberg's "bullpens" and Stephens' weak complaisance while plotters disrobe and beat women in the streets are about equally distasteful.

It is alleged that Quay and Platt are preparing to stampede the Philadelphia Convention from McKinley to Roosevelt. This process would be something like flushing a bunch of decoy ducks, or frightening a cigar Indian.

While sundry statesmen and warriors are declaring in advance that they cannot accept a vice-presidential nomination, it is notable that no refusal has been disengaged by Hon. David Bennett Hill.

Senator Davis has modestly admitted in a speech to University of Pennsylvania students that the Paris Treaty lays all previous diplomacy in the shade.

A census enumerator has found in Newark, New Jersey, a man who is living happily with two wives. The moral is that he will not continue to live happily with them.

To print the proceedings in a murder trial is one thing; to reach a verdict and save the jury the trouble is another, and vastly different, thing.

The Prince of Wales declares that he is tired of being a prince. The pace has been a trifle swift.

Hon. Ig Donnelly in his letter of acceptance says, "We must have a party dreadfully in earnest." How would the Boxers suit Hon. Ig? They are in earnest.

NOTES AND OPINIONS.

A FAR-REACHING CONTROVERSY.
(Savannah News.)

It looks as if the Sampson-Schley controversy would play a part in the selection of a Republican candidate for Vice President. It is known that many of the leading Republicans think that Mr. Long, the Secretary of the Navy, would be the strongest candidate their party could nominate for that office. Mr. Long has said that while he did not seek the nomination, he would accept it if it were offered to him.

It seems, however, that the opinion is held by other Republican leaders that the nomination of Mr. Long would be the weakest that could be made on account of his connection with the Sampson-Schley controversy. The Times-Herald of Chicago, for instance, says: "How can the Republicans best help the Democrats to carry New York and other of the States named?"

"By nominating John D. Long for Vice President. That would inject the Sampson-Schley issue into the controversy and present Maryland to Bryan as a 16 to 1 silver salver. That it would also go far to help him to the thirty-six electoral votes of New York is the belief of all those who remember the difference in New York's greeting of Admirals Schley and Sampson at the Dewey reception last fall."

GOVERNMENT AND MISSIONARIES.
(Newark Advertiser.)

If our Government should grant the urgent requests sent to the White House by missionary societies it would have to deport nearly the whole of the army in the Philippines into China, so as to equip every American missionary with a regiment for a guard. Missionaries are also soliciting the Government to seize land in China and embroil the nation in all the difficulties that are arising in China to get the rest of the civilized world by the ears. The Government, of course, pays no attention to these appeals, and will deal with the situation in its own way.

A GLOOMY MCKINLEY ORGAN.
(New Orleans States.)

The New York Press, a Republican newspaper, which has a large circulation in the city and State, is not inclined to regard the political situation as at all satisfactory from a party point of view, but on the contrary it has much reason to believe that certain elements that supported McKinley in 1896 will not support him this year. It expresses the opinion that it will not make much difference what the platform of the New York Democrats is or the Kansas City platform may be, but the things that are going to count are the business, industrial and labor situation and the confidence or lack of confidence of the voters in Republican rule.

"There will be," says the Press, "personal elements in the canvass. So far as they are concerned we think the Republican party will suffer, and we see no reason why we should fool ourselves about it. Among Republican voters generally in New York we are convinced there is dissatisfaction with the platform of the party, and the State administration for the disappointing, say, humiliating degradation of the party to the bosses. This is going to hurt, and it is going to hurt a great deal more than we like to think." Continuing, the Press says: "There is going to be a tremendous falling away from the ballots given to McKinley in 1896. If we do not admit that, we only delude ourselves into the possibility, if not the probability, of destruction. Tens of thousands of Democrats who four years ago joined the Republican resistance to the Bryan invasion will not vote with us again."

THE TEST OF SECRETARY LONG.
(Washington Times.)

The armor plate deal is now about to come to the front in commanding shape. It is announced by a leading administration paper that the Carnegie-Bethlehem Trust declares that the "heavier" plates cannot be furnished for less than five hundred and fifty dollars a ton. The country is sadly misinformed if the same trusts have not sold the same product to the Russian Government for two hundred and twenty-five dollars a ton. We are more convinced than ever that a great strain is about to be put upon the conscience of the Hon. John D. Long. Perhaps he will not take offence if we advise him to send it down to the Indian Head proving grounds and have it tested in advance. If it did not stand the test then he could save himself by resigning.

THE OIL FIELDS OF TEXAS.
(Chattanooga Times.)

In the oil field around Corsicana, Tex., there were 473 producing wells on June 1. The production was at the rate of 1,630,000 barrels a year. The field is being rapidly widened by new strikes in adjoining districts, which are reported every week. In contour of the country round the pretty town of Corsicana is not unlike the oil region in Wood, Hancock and Allen counties, Ohio. The Texas field is a rolling prairie. The Ohio field is a moderately rolling timbered region, much of it low-lying and needing artificial drainage to make it fit for cultivation.

JAPAN AND RUSSIA.
(Chicago Record.)

If Japan should decide to force Russia's hand now, it will be because the mikado's advisers feel certain of possessing the stronger fleet and because they may doubt the possibility of maintaining their advantage for any great length of time. The drain upon Japan's finances has been very great already, and the Japanese government may prefer to capture a few battleships instead of building them. Whether the attempt would be successful and whether the plan would prove an economical one may be doubted, but there is every reason to believe that if Japan does go to war with Russia there will be one or two of the greatest sea fights in the history of the world. It cannot be long now before the question of peace or war will be decided.

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